

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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The County Court

Question of Re-Employing Farm Adviser Taken Under Advisement. Saloon at Station Loses Out.

There was really nothing of importance doing in the county court room last week until Thursday. The usual routine work of making allowances to paupers, officers and others is always about the same and of little or no interest except to those who get the money.

But Thursday I noticed an unusual number of automobiles—some of them very high priced—in front of the court house. I knew there must be a "hen on," and asked the court house janitor what it meant.

"Farmers' meeting," he replied. "Farmers' meeting? I queried. 'I thought farmers usually rode in wagons.'"

Then I remembered having heard, a few days before, that Farm Adviser Deen's three year contract had expired and that some of the landlords were making special efforts to get a good crowd of farmers before the court to insist on his re-employment for another term of three years under somewhat different terms.

It seems there was doubt as to whether or not the court would re-employ him at all. Three years ago it was the Sikeston landlords who encouraged the court to try the experiment and agreed to pay \$500 a year of his salary. Hence the cost to the county was only \$1,000 per year. The balance of \$3,000 is paid from national and state funds.

Now Sikeston landlords want to retain the farm adviser, but want to be relieved of paying their share of the salary paid by them in the past, and want the county to pay it all. As a concession to get the co-operation of the Benton politicians and the New Hamburg priest, the Sikeston crowd agreed to have the adviser's headquarters at Benton instead of Sikeston. That brought about "harmony."

But that isn't all they want. Landlords and politicians are never mealy-mouthed when going after anything. They not only want to be relieved of paying the part they have heretofore paid, but want the county adviser's pay increased so he can have an automobile. Instead of the county paying \$1,000 as heretofore, they want the county's part to be \$2,150—an increased burden of \$1,150 per year on an empty treasury.

Only last month the board of equalization spent two weeks and some \$500 of the people's money in raising assessments in order to produce more revenue. But the same landed interests appeared and beat down the assessment until the increased revenue will not be very much. And the revenue fund is now empty—thanks to the fancy court house advocated by the landlords.

Always nosing around where I have no business, I drifted into the court room to take a look at the "farmers" mentioned by the janitor.

There they were: Dr. Yount and J. H. Galeener, sons-in-laws of J. E. Marshall; J. W. Baker, Jr.; Charley McMillin, Wm. H. and Charley Tanner and other title to Richland township; Bob Harrison, the largest landowner in Morley township; Dr. Haw, of the million dollar Hunter land corporation; "Father" Moening, the largest land owner in the northwest part of the county, and Dr. Frazer and Norval Anderson, representing the landed interests of Commerce township.

Behind these were quite a number of working farmers whom they had induced to come to "make a showing," but these took no part in the discussions. Against this force were Joe Parker and Ike Marshall, representing the B. F. Marshall Land Co.'s interests around Blodgett. These people have no use for a farm adviser. They can tell their tenants what they want without the butting in of any farm adviser. They fought against the adviser, but were in a hopeless minority.

Mr. Baker made the first talk and pointed with pride to the assembled farmers who had taken such great interest in the welfare of their county as to appear before the court en masse. Dr. Frazer, Dr. Haw, Mr. Galeener and several others unobscured themselves about the value of a farm adviser and assured the court that while the assemblage was not as large as it might be, yet the general sentiment of the people of the county favored their project.

Then something happened that almost caused me to yell. A fight over a saloon petition had just been disposed of which caused more people to be in the court room than ordinarily. Hence the court could not tell who were interested in the matter before the court, and who were just spectators. Yet all who were in town were urged to "help make a showing."

talk and suggested that in order to find out whether the gathering represented the general sentiment of the county, a poll be taken by townships. This was done. As townships were called the "farmers" were asked to rise to their feet. And it was found that the majority present was the result of the efforts of "Father" Moening of New Hamburg and the Benton politicians.

Among those who stood up for Benton were such honey-handed sons of toil as Reese Allen, W. H. Heisserer, Dr. Haw, Ernest Walker, Arthur Crismon and Joe Norrd. In all there were 92 present, and 48, or more than half, were from this Moreland township—the work of the court house farmers and "Father" Moening.

Richland township, with its 5,000 people, was able to make a showing of 19, while Kelso township with a similar population had a representation of eleven headed by so laborious a farmer as Frank Compas.

Commerce had a representation of nine, with such sturdy farmers as Dr. T. F. Frazer and Norval Anderson in the lead.

Sylvania township was represented by three, who belonged to Moening's group. Otherwise Sylvania was not represented.

When Morley township was called Bob Harrison stood up alone. Tyawpity township was not represented at all, and the two from Sandyswoods township were opposed to the scheme.

This over W. H. Tanner stepped forward and appointed himself chairman. Then questions were not in regular convention style and, with the exception of the two Sandyswoods everything carried unanimously. Here is the only place where the actual farmers present took any part. The vote was by rising, and when the leaders got up the followers also got up.

One of the questions put was, "All who believe that every dollar expended by the county on a farm adviser will be returned a hundred fold, rise." All got up except the two. But I have my doubts about their believing it. If the landlords believe it, it looks mighty niggardly in them to try to shift the expenditure of a dollar that will return to them a hundred. Convince me that I can get back even two dollars for one invested, and I will not ask someone else to put up the dollar. Neither will the landlords.

However the court did not seem to believe it, and took the matter under advisement, promising to give their decision at 1 o'clock. At that time they put off their decision until June. And if the crowd behind this scheme fails to get what it wants, it will be the first time they have been sat upon.

Whether or not a farm adviser is a good investment, under the conditions in Scott county, I do not know. But it is evident that the tillers of the soil are not much interested—for there were very few if any present—at this meeting, except those that were "drammed in."

From his pulpit, Sunday "Father" Moening told how well pleased he was with the showing he made, and that he expects more of his farmers to be present when the court is to decide in June. Hence the court may expect to be more heavily bombarded by "drammed in" farmers next month.

In conclusion I may safely add that not another paper of the county will tell its readers the "whole truth about this 'farmers' meeting.'" And it is because the Kicker tells what the calling powers don't want told that the landlords, priests and politicians set it a and paper. They don't want the masses to know the truth. That is why it is a "sin" to read the Kicker. The Kicker tells it.

The following tax rate was fixed for 1916: State revenue, 15c; state interest, 1c; state capital, 2c; county revenue, 40c; special road and bridge, 25c; court house, 5c, per \$100 valuation.

Road petitioned by T. M. Burg and others near Vanduser ordered viewed and reported by August. Sikeston Standard awarded the publishing of the financial statement at 24c per square. Other bids were Scott County Democrat, 23c; Morley Banner, 29 1-2; the Sikeston Herald, 75c.

School fund mortgage of W. A. Maddox and wife on property in Oran ordered foreclosed. Surveyor Murray granted time until August to report on roads now due.

Albert Loss, Fornell, granted dramshop license. Road petitioned by W. J. Haney and others set for hearing June 1.

On May 17 court will view road petitioned by W. J. Haney and others between Oran and Perkins. Ordered that hereafter the salary of highway engineer shall be \$4 per day for actual service and not exceeding \$3 per day for a deputy, and in no case more than a total of \$104 per month; and that bills for chairman and assistance shall state by whom the work was done and warrants to be made payable to them.

The tax rate in drain districts fixed as follows: District 1, \$4 on the \$10 benefit; district 2, \$3; district 5, \$3; district 6, \$1; district 10, \$4.

Court adjourned to Thursday, June 1.

THE RAILROADS

Cleveland, Ohio, May 8.—The Railroad Brotherhoods are asking the railroads to better their conditions and grant an eight-hour day.

The men claim that the revenues of the companies have increased enormously on account of long heavy tonnage freight trains.

The men desire relief from the long hours of arduous labor which have increased greatly in recent years on account of the heavier and longer trains. Official report shows that there has been an increase of 33 per cent in the tractive power of locomotives, an increase of 30 per cent of the capacity of freight cars, an increase of 20 per cent in the number of freight cars in a train, an increase of 23 per cent in the number of loaded cars in a train, an increase of 19 per cent in the tons carried in the loaded car, and a total increase of 47 per cent in the tons carried by the average freight train.

A statement issued by the Executive Committee of the Association of Western Railways, April 23rd, 1916, declares that the railroads received in the year 1909, \$1.05 per freight train per mile and in 1914 the earnings per freight train per mile were \$3.31 or an increase of 100 per cent over 1909.

The freight train crews are producing double the revenue for the railroads according to this statement by the railroads themselves.

All this shows that the freight train crew at the present time is moving a far greater amount of traffic and producing a far greater revenue for the roads than the crew of a few years ago. A greater amount of tonnage movement is thus concentrated in each of the working hours. It follows that even with a shorter work day, eight hours for freight train crews, they will move a greater amount of tonnage than the same crew moved in ten hours a day or so.

By increasing the tonnage moved by the train crew from year to year, the railroads increased their revenues enormously without increasing the expense of moving the train.

EXPERIENCE SLOW

"It takes a very long time for people to learn from experience," says The St. Paul Daily News.

"About 40 years ago the state of Texas gave 3,000,000 acres of land to an English syndicate in exchange for a state capitol building."

"The building has been deteriorating in value ever since. The land has been increasing in value ever since. Originally the land was estimated at 50 cents an acre. Last year, less than one-third of it was sold for \$4,736.00. The other two-thirds is still held by the syndicate. It was a clear case of selling the birthright of the people for a mess of pottage, and not very good pottage at that."

"But now the news comes that this same state of Texas, in utter disregard of this experience, is about to sell 1,500,000 acres of school lands."

"Once again private individuals are to be given the chance to grow rich by appropriating values created by the people of Texas. Once again opportunities for labor, that might be reserved for the people, are to pass under control of speculators. And once again a possible source of relief for the unemployed is to be closed."

"As for Minnesota, the wholesale squandering of the public landed domain is pointed to with pride by succeeding administrations and public officers and is the subject of much self-congratulations in many newspapers."

The capitalists derive their power through control of government. If the workers would achieve power they must get it from the same source.

WILL HAVE TO TRY AGAIN.

It looks like President Wilson will have to play some more at his innocent game of addressing notes and ultimatums to Germany. He has been at it for 18 months and is just where he began.

The answer to his last note to Germany has just arrived. The general tone of the head-lines in the kept press indicate that Germany has yielded to the president, but a careful reading reveals that Germany very politely tells the president to go to hell.

These diplomatic notes are like statute law. You can make anything out of them that suits your fancy. What is said in one section is taken back in another—except in cases where a stronger nation is dealing with a weak one. In such cases the strong nation is very bold just as we were when we entered Mexico. Had a similar raid to that of Villa at Columbus occurred on the Canadian border, we would not have sent our troops into Canada to run down the bandit. We would have been perfectly satisfied with exchanging diplomatic notes with England.

Wilson and the munition makers behind him, and the Wall Street crowd that furnished the shells with half a billion dollars, want Germany to agree to commit suicide. Germany refuses to agree. And there is the rub.

England is the most powerful nation on the seas. It has the greatest navy and has blockaded all German ports so that Germany can get no supplies from any other nation. The purpose is to starve Germany.

Among the first ships to go to the bottom was in the North sea carrying supplies to Germany. We heard so little about it that we hardly remember the incident. But let a ship go down that is carrying supplies to the allies and the howl is general and continuous. Nobody is allowed to forget the Lusitania.

We are supplying the allies with food, clothing, money and ammunition, and I feel sure that we are responsible for the prolongation of the war. The only thing Germany can do is to try to prevent the landing of the supplies sent over by us. She has a notion that a cargo of guns and ammunition will do less harm at the bottom of the sea than in the hands of the enemy. So she uses the submarines and sinks as many of these ships as she can. Wilson regards this as a violation of "the principles of humanity."

Of course the ruling powers are always much concerned about "humanity" and "civilized warfare" when profits are interfered with. England has seized our mails, seized our ships and done pretty much as she pleased with things American. But is such cases Mr. Wilson "turns the other cheek?"

Germany calls attention to this and says: "The German people know to what considerable extent their enemies are supplied with all kinds of war materials from the United States."

Germany then requests that the United States insist that England observe the "rules of international law" universally recognized before the war, and concludes:

"Should steps taken by the Government of the United States not attain the object it desires to have the laws of humanity followed by the belligerent nations, the German Government would then be facing a new situation in which it must reserve to itself complete liberty of decision."

In other words, Germany tells Mr. Wilson that he must become neutral in fact, instead of only in words, before Germany will stop to his dictation, and hands him this squarely between the eyes: "As matters stand, the German Government cannot but reiterate regrets that the sentiments of humanity, which the Government of the United States extends with such fervor to the unhappy victims of submarine warfare, are not extended with the same warmth of feeling to many millions of women and children, who, according to the avowed intention of the British Government, shall be starved and who by sufferings shall force the victorious armies of the Central Powers into ignominious capitulation."

COME OVER HERE

The question of bonding the city of Bloomfield for \$5,000 for the purpose of substantial street improvement is being discussed to some extent—Bloomfield Vindicator.

Tell your people who are seeking expert knowledge on street improvements to come to Benton just after a rain, or during a wind in dry times. We bonded ourselves for \$4,500 to improve our streets—and we sure fixed 'em.

The badly decomposed body of Tim Rich, aged 26, was found in Castor river near Zeta last week. Rich disappeared April 19, and his hat was found on the Cotton Belt tracks near a bridge. On the night previous the postoffice at Zeta was robbed by negroes, and it is supposed the negroes threw Rich in the river.

In Pemiscot county the county printing was let for a term of two years to the Hayti Herald at 25c per square. In Scott county no public printing has been let a it should be in the past 15 years.

AS TO MEXICO.

Were it not so serious a matter, it would be laughable the way the powers that be fool the American people over the Mexican situation. From the jump the Kicker has said it is not Villa, but Carranza, we are after, and I want you to watch and see if we don't get him if we get anybody.

Repeatedly we have had Villa cornered, surrounded, wounded, dead, buried—all in the newspapers. Thousands upon thousands of protests have poured into Washington asking the withdrawal of our troops. So strong was this protest that Mr. Wilson sent Gen. Scott to the border to investigate and report to him. The president should have done this in the outset.

Gen. Scott was met by Gen. Obregon, representing Gen. Carranza. An agreement was reached whereby the American troops are to be withdrawn from Mexico within 60 days, and this agreement was ratified by both Presidents Wilson and Gen. Carranza.

Hardly had this agreement had time to become generally known until the "border outrages" again broke out—at least in the kept newspapers. Monday papers told of "Villa bandits" crossing the Rio Grand and attacking Americans just as they did at Columbus.

If these reports be true, why does not the government at Washington locate the instigators of these raids? They want us at all informed are convinced that the instigators are on this side of the border, and proof to this effect has been furnished to the president in abundance.

Why does he not have an investigating committee with a man like Frank Walsh at its head, and let the committee call before it Cardinal Gibbons, Wm. Randolph Hearst, H. G. O'Connell, Rockefeller, Guggenheim and so on?

The president has been furnished information to the effect that, last year, a meeting was held at the home of Felix Diaz, in New Orleans, at which were present many Catholic dignitaries, including Archbishop Mora, head of the church in Mexico, and Cardinal Gibbons, head of the church in this country. According to the report, it was agreed to raise ten million dollars to finance a revolution against Carranza, and a short time afterwards a collection was taken up in all of the Catholic churches under the pretense of helping the "poor, starving Mexicans."

Why does not the president investigate the evidence furnished him and let the people know about it.

THE PEOPLE ARE DELUDED

John Boyle O'Reilly.

The mass of poor, ignorant, disorganized, do not know the right of mankind upon earth and never realize that the world belongs to its population. A small class in every country has taken possession of property, and government and makes laws for its own safety and the security of its plunder. Educating the masses, generation after generation, into the belief that this condition is the natural order and the "law of God." By long training and submission the people everywhere have come to regard the assumption of their rulers and owners as the law of right and common sense and their own blind instincts, which tell them all men ought to have a plentiful living on this planet, as the promptings of evil and disorder.

Put the Kicker in every working class home. Read the unmuzzled Kicker.

IN THE SOUTHEAST.

What the People are Doing in Other Counties that are Near.

The people of Cape Girardeau county are much worked up over the decision of Judge Kelly that the tax-payers in general must pay for the bridges made necessary by the Little River drainage district. It was a cheap "victory" of the landlords over the people, and the Tribune says it will save the Himmelsberg-Harrison Co. alone \$100,000. We of Scott county are used to such "victories" and don't expect anything else. We know who it was that put Kelly on the bench just as well as Kelly knows—and Kelly likes his job. But the Cape county people are just beginning to get a taste of landlord rule as we have had it here for a quarter of a century. Quite a number of our landlords are now residents of Cape. Here in Scott county the general public has always been building the bridges, made necessary by the drain ditches, and nobody but the Kicker has ever intimated that it was neither legal nor right. A drainage district is a corporation composed of the landlords of certain territory. The roads of that territory are public property. If the landlords want to dig through the road, why shouldn't they be compelled to repair the damage as far as possible, by putting in and keeping up the bridges? Judge Ranney held that they must, but Judge Ranney was not a creature of the landlords.

A correspondent from the north end of Dunklin county is not very optimistic as to the crop outlook. Last year about this time crops looked good and the general tone of bone-head utterances was "God bless Wilson." But the time has changed and the correspondent to the Chamber (Citizen) writes: "There is something going to show up in the wheat crop in this community within the next thirty days if we are not mistaken as to how the Hessian Fly works. Some of the wheat is making no progress at all, and if you will examine one of these stalks it is turning yellow. Strip down the blade and you will find large white eggs. Just how came them there, I don't know, but if they are the eggs of the Hessian Fly, wheat will be almost ruined this year. We are also informed that the chinch bug will visit us this summer. If so, corn will suffer."

Poplar Bluff Citizen.—Butler county farmers have been very busy for the past week, giving their apple trees a third coat of spray. Peach trees have also come in for a second treatment. Fruit prospects in this section are bright. The general use of chemical sprays on Butler county orchards has had a beneficial effect on the crop as a whole. The hog cholera epidemic, which last summer and fall, caused Butler county farmers such severe financial losses is showing up again.

Strawberry picking has begun in Dunklin county and a grower advertises that he will pay 10 cents per bushel of six boxes. This is a fraction over five cents per gallon. As a special inducement to pickers who work faithfully, a free ticket to a ten-cent show is given on Saturday night. Prosperity is sure floating around in chunks on the farm.

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Jackson Cash-Book.—Ed Redwell of near Appleton, one of the prominent farmers of that vicinity, met with a serious accident last Monday while working in a field near his home. His team became frightened and started to run. One of his feet got caught in the lines and he was dragged some distance before he could get loose. He had to be carried to the house, where an examination showed that one leg was broken just above the ankle. Doctors Bowman of Appleton and Statler of Oak Ridge set the broken limb.

Poplar Bluff Citizen.—Expert cracksmen of unknown identity broke into the freight office at the Frisco depot Saturday night and hauled the safe, escaping with about \$200 in cash. That the job was done by experienced men, old hands at the game, no one can doubt. In fact the crime was pulled off in about the neatest manner local authorities have ever run across. No one heard the explosion, and the robbery was not discovered until about five o'clock next morning, when the office was opened.

Carthage Democrat.—A new member of the Georgia Ministerial show, which exhibited last Wednesday night "got fresh" with the management and was discharged. He threatened several members of the company, and even went to the car which was loaded on the siding above town and hurled up and down by the side of it with a drawn knife in his hand. He was pointed out by the entire outfit badly beaten, shot in the foot and threatened with hanging. He will recover.

Bloomfield Vindicator.—J. B. Buck and Lon Stitz shipped two cow cows of cattle to St. Louis the first of the week. They turned Wednesday and reported the purchase of two more pedigreed Angus cattle. Some little time ago these gentlemen purchased five head of pedigreed Angus cattle, Jas. Jenkins and Lige Jenkins, both of Advance, were also purchasers of one Angus each. Leading stockmen in the county are rapidly recognizing the superiority of pedigreed stock.

R. W. Imboden is a candidate for sheriff of New Madrid county and starts off by committing political suicide. He announces that he does not believe in carrying water on both shoulders and says he is "dry." That sort of a man has no business in politics. The politician must be everything to everybody and nothing to nobody. Quite unnecessary we are told that Mr. Imboden is a farmer.

Jackson Items.—Two well known young people of Benton township came to Jackson Saturday evening to get a marriage license, but the young lady in the case could not quite make up her mind to take the final step and they left without obtaining a license. If either of the parties were not sure of their mind, it was much better they hesitated than possibly add another one to the already too numerous unhappy marriages.

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